UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/48/54
14 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 123 and 56

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.33

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of draft resolution A/48/L.33 the General Assembly would:

(a) Adopt the texts contained in the annexes to the resolution;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to implement the further measures for restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields starting in 1994;

(c) Call upon the Secretary-General, in view of the decision to enlarge the role of the Economic and Social Council, to strengthen the secretariat of the Council in order to enable it to provide the necessary support to the Council.

2. In connection with the scope of financial responsibilities of the governing bodies of the United Nations development funds and programmes as contained in paragraphs 21 and 22 of annex I to the draft resolution, it should be noted that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) operate under financial regulations and rules adopted by their respective governing bodies. In particular, paragraph 22 of annex I to the draft resolution sets out the functions of each Executive Board. It is understood, therefore, that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.33, a reference to the UNDP

Governing Council in the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP would continue to apply, mutatis mutandis, with respect to the responsibilities of the UNDP Executive Board, until such time as the General Assembly decides to amend the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP accordingly. It is further understood that although the functions of the Executive Board of UNICEF may be modified by the resolution, a reference to it in the UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules would also continue to apply, mutatis mutandis, with respect to the new responsibilities of the UNICEF Executive Board.

3. With regard to conference-servicing requirements for the governing bodies of the funds and programmes as they stem from various paragraphs of annex I to the draft resolution, it is anticipated that the proposed measures would substantially alter the programmes of meetings already scheduled for the biennium 1994-1995. A number of technical parameters of those changes in terms of number, duration and composition of the expected meetings in order to estimate their programme budget implications are not known at this stage, however. It would be the intention of the Secretary-General to provide the conference servicing of those meetings from within the overall provision for conference-servicing requirements under section 25, Administration and management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, 1/ which has been made not only for meetings already known of at the time of the budget preparation, but also for meetings or extensions of such meetings that may be authorized subsequently, based on the pattern that has emerged over the previous five years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for the implementation of the new programme of meetings that would result from the adoption of the draft resolution.

4. As regards the provisions of paragraph 27 of annex I to the draft resolution it is understood that implementation of that paragraph may call for the construction of new conference-servicing facilities for UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF in order to accommodate the programme of meetings of the Executive Boards. It is also understood from that paragraph that the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes would make necessary arrangements in that respect from within the resources to be available for them for that purpose and no involvement of the United Nations regular budget in the financing of that construction is anticipated. It is further understood that, irrespective of the source of financing, the construction of the conference-servicing facilities for the funds and programmes would follow the building construction procedures which were reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session 2/ and which are currently in force at the United Nations.

5. As regards the request contained in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, it is estimated that the strengthening of the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council would be undertaken in the context of the overall restructuring process of the Secretariat from within the resources of section 8, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, 3/ thus obviating the need for the additional resources.

Notes

1/ A/48/6 (Sect. 25).

2/ Decision 36/454 of 18 December 1981, A/36/297, A/36/643.

3/ A/48/6 (Sect. 8).